



Principal's Report to SAC

October 26, 2021

New School Year

We are excited to be back to in-person learning this year. The additional advantage is having our library, music room and art rooms open again for teaching and learning. Instrumental Band (gr 6), Violin (gr 4&5) and choir (gr 3 – 6) have returned as well. We welcome the following new staff members to our Nelson Whynder family:

- Ms. Desmond – Vice Principal
- Ms. Nathanson (Ms. Hanna) – Learning Centre Teacher
- Mr. Bruce – Music
- Ms. Chisholm – School Counsellor
- Ms. Hann – Grade 6 Band
- Ms. Tofflemire – Core French
- Ms. Slawter – Child and Youth Care Practitioner
- Ms. Steele - Physical Education (P – 3 10%)
- Ms. Fortier – Speech/Language Pathologist
- Ms. Tsantilas – School Psychologist

We continue to follow the Public Health protocols of hand washing and sanitizing and wearing of masks. Visitors including parents are allowed in the building; however with the recent out-break within our province we are keeping this to a minimum preferring parent meetings and events virtually for the time being.

Student Success Planning (SSP)

To re-cap our Student Success goal are as follows:

1. **Literacy -To improve reading comprehension within, about and beyond the text.**
2. **Mathematics -To improve student achievement in applying partitioning and representing to operations.**
3. **Student well-being -We will improve student well-being at our school.**

Teachers will tap into students' deep culture with attention to Afrocentricity and bridge students' deep culture with the literacy and mathematics curriculum to push them

towards excellence. We will also, support psychological and socio-emotional well-being by promoting the collective resilience of the community of North Preston and the black community; harnessing the spirituality and faith of the community.

To enhance curriculum in literacy teachers have recognized the need to upgrade their classroom libraries. The principal is in the process of collecting their wish lists. Teachers will engage students in this selection process. We request the SAC support these efforts by designating some of the funds towards classroom libraries. Some teachers have also been requesting supplies for STEAM.

Teachers continue to use a variety of assessment strategies for learning daily to determine next steps to move students forward. They will collect formal assessment in literacy and math end of term 1.

EECD has rolled out 2 programs to support Mathematics and Literacy, Raz-Kids from Learning A – Z and Knowledge Hook.com (a formative assessment tool for Mathematics).

P – 2 Literacy Initiative

This initiative is based on a directive from the Deputy Minister of Education to ensure all students are reading at grade level by the end of grade 2.

In response to this directive, schools are submitting reading data on a monthly basis, indicating whether students are meeting or not meeting. This is based on a variety of evidence, such as informal reading records, observations, anecdotal notes of students' reading behaviours collected by the teacher during individual, small group and whole group lessons. This is not necessarily a formal running record. During Teaching Support Meetings (TST) we discuss and explore high leverage strategies to support student success.

Provincial Assessments

Grade 6 students completed the Provincial Assessments in Math & Literacy last week. Grade 3 will write provincial assessments in May.

Staff Professional Development

During the month of September staff engaged in professional development around Well-being and Cultural Ways of Knowing, being and doing (Africentricity and Treaty Education reflection), independent learning in literacy and Student Services. Teachers also attend various conferences virtually October 22nd.

Events & Recognitions to Support Well-being

- Daily repeating “Student Creed” during Morning Announcements.

- Monthly themes for morning announcements (September was the origins of the African presence in Nova Scotia and Preston and October Mi'kmaq History month). Students have been presenting during the month of October.
- Monthly Positive Participation Awards
- Virtual Curriculum Night Google Meets
- *Message in a Bottle – 15 Ships to Sierra Leone Project*: Grades 4/5 and 5/6 participated in this project and had their art work (ships) and story/letters on display at the Canadian Museum of Immigration Pier 21 to commemorate the Black Loyalists who sailed from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone in 1792. The photo of one of our students was also featured on the CBC Mainstreet Halifax showing off the ships.
- Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly November 10th

School Web-site

Our school web-site is regularly updated and now includes updated information on SAC. Principals were given a template in which to regularly upload SAC Agreement, meeting dates, meeting minutes and any other important information. This is available to the public by going to our web-site <https://nwe.hrce.ca/>, click Our School and then click School Advisory Council. I am still in the process of updating information.

Outdoor Classroom Spaces

We are still awaiting the outdoor furniture for our out-door classroom in the garden area. Wi-Fi was installed in this area last spring. We are requesting that SAC organize volunteers to complete the stencil painting in the school year (one hundredths chart, snakes & ladders and checkers)

Water Fountain Update

Two new water fountains, similar to the one outside the office were installed, one by the gym and one by the bathrooms across from the grade 5/6 classroom. Two fountains have been cleared for use and we are awaiting the ok to use the third. We have decided to continue using the bottled water until all three are cleared for use.